

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are being amended to improve their form. No new matter is involved.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Published Application 2002/0060964 of Park in view U.S. Patent 6,434,096 of Akagi et al. Park is said to teach the claimed subject matter except for recording an offset adjustment signal in a test recording area provided on an optical disc, wherein the offset adjustment signal is recorded while modifying a driving signal supplied to the tilt adjustment coil. Akagi et al. is said to teach recording an offset adjustment signal in a test recording area provided on an optical disc, wherein the offset adjustment signal is recorded while modifying a driving signal level supplied to the tilt adjustment coil. According to the Office Action, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Park's teachings with those of Akagi et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

While Parks discloses performing tilt adjustment based on the magnitude, maximum value and minimum value of the focusing area signal, the reference nowhere describes recording an offset adjustment signal while changing the tilt angle. This is an important feature in accordance with the present invention.

Akagi discloses using a tilt sensor to detect a relationship between the head position and the offset, storing the detected value in a memory, and adjusting the offset for tilt control based on the detected value. The portions of Akagi pointed out in the Office Action (lines 40-45 of col. 12 and claim 33) describe storing in advance the offset adjustment amount. However, such reference nowhere mentions or suggests recording an offset adjustment signal while changing the tilt angle.

More specifically, Akagi describes recording sample data for one track at an initial track position while performing tilt control such that the tilt angle detected by the tilt area detection circuit 311 becomes zero, and playing back the recorded sample data to detect RF amplitude values. During the playback of the sample data, the tilt offset amount is varied so as to determine the offset amount at which the maximum RF amplitude value can be obtained. Akagi also mentions varying the tilt angle in a step wise manner in order to detect the offset amount at which the maximum RF amplitude value can be obtained. In other words, the device of Akagi is configured to detect an appropriate offset amount by changing the tilt angle conditions during the playback (refer to Figs. 35 and 37 of the reference).

In contrast, the device of the present invention and that used by methods in accordance with the present invention is configured to record an offset adjustment signal in a test recording area while changing the level of the drive signal supplied to the tilt adjustment coil, and to playback the recorded offset adjustment signal so as to determine the offset value for the tilt adjustment coil. Such feature is neither shown nor suggested by Akagi or Park, as described above.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are independent claims. Each of these claims is being amended to add thereto the limitation "wherein the tilt angle of the optical pickup is changed by changing the level of the drive current supplied to the tilt adjustment coil". As described above, such feature in accordance with the invention is neither disclosed nor suggested by either Park or Akagi or the attempted combination thereof. Therefore, claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 depend from and contain all of the limitations of the independent claims, so that such claims are also submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art.

Appl. No. 10/697,455
Amdt. Dated September 11, 2006
Reply to Office Action of June 29, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 81784.0288
Customer No.: 26021

In conclusion, claims 1-12 as amended herein are submitted to clearly distinguish patentably over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6846 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: September 11, 2006

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